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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant in re of:**  
**James BAICH, *et al.***

**Group Art Unit: 3679**

**Serial No. 10/617,702**

**Examiner: David BOCHNA**

**Filed: July 14, 2003**

For: PIPE CONNECTING METHOD AND APPARATUS

Corres. and Mail  
**BOX AF**  
HNA

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

**Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed November 16, 2004, having a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire February 16, 2005. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

**Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:**

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.

do not enter BB 2/24/05